

This short video expresses a portion of my learning journey over the past 6 weeks and before. My learning and development were not limited to my time interacting directly with the material, but were incorporated into my life as I continued to live and explore. The 'nature' clips included in the video are taken from this time of intense learning that I have been moving through in the past months; getting to know myself and my relationship with the planet more intimately.

In all these moments I felt a connection to the scenes in front of me; perhaps seen as mundane, but they all possessed an energy that taught me something. I compiled these, and a stop motion video, along with two poems that I wrote that express where I am in my unlearning/learning of reality and entanglement. The first poem speaks more to my connection with the 'good' of the world, the second is me coming to terms with my relationship to some things I see as 'bad' in the world; exploitation, the dark history of unjust labour and trauma that allows me my privileges today, the separability that (I feel) is intensified with city living.

The stop motion video expresses the way I perceive modern society's existence currently. We are of the Earth; we are shells, and seaweed, and microplastics. It also tells the story of my learning that has happened as I interacted with the environment cleaning a coastline in the spring. I went through a series of emotions as I picked bags and bags of plastic pieces that I recognized from my childhood off the beach; Cute pencils like the ones my mother would buy me for my first day of school, containers for floss the way they used to be made, toys that I haven't seen available in stores for years. I was angry, thinking "how could they do this", then slowly realized that I am 'they', and finally recognized that I was wasting more energy looking for someone to blame (including myself) than I was on analysing the problem space. In the end, I've decided I can't go into this field of work both honestly and absolved, nor would I have the stamina to continue if I were to carry around the guilt of being my own scapegoat.

It has been a process of building the capacity to hold both the 'good' and the 'bad' within me, and finding patience with the discomfort of allowing my perspective of the line between the 'good' and 'bad' to blur. It goes against my nurture to see life as complicated and unsolvable, without heroes and villains. The figure in the video isn't 'bad' or 'good'. It simply evolves into being also plastic and metal.

The video is not intended to present the audience with a problem asking for a solution, but simply demonstrates a reality as I have come to see it through my recent learning.